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- ChalkWalk Brochure



The walk is on **Saturday, October 18** at Wilket Creek Park/Sunnybrook Park, located at Leslie Street and Eglinton Ave. This is our main PDK Chapter fundraiser and we have joined with the Spelling Bee of Canada. If you wish to make a contribution you may do so either to PDK, University of Toronto Chapter **or** the Spelling Bee of Canada.

Please send your cheque to **Carolyn Moras** at 52 Mosedale Cres., Toronto, Ontario M2J 3A4 416- 671-7024 cjmoras@rogers.com

Moveta Nanton
nanton@sympatico.ca
416-526-2975



President's Message – Tim Rudan

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with it's last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." Lauren DeStefano.

I hope our members had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new academic year. I chose this quote since it illustrates my experience during our annual ChalkWalk fundraiser in October; the colours in Wilket Creek Park are unparalleled. I wish to invite you to attend our Chalkwalk on October 18th and enjoy an afternoon with youthful energy and professional educators.

In addition to this event, the executive has been planning for the 2014-2015 year which will culminate in our AGM and dinner in April where we will award our Outstanding Educator for 2015.

September and October is indeed a time to look ahead and to consider changes in the teaching profession.

I was particularly intrigued by Ronald Thorpe's article, *Residency: Can it transform teaching the way it did medicine?* in the current edition of the Kappan.

As of September 2015 teaching preparation became a mandatory two years in Ontario and many stakeholders, not to mention new entrants are wondering what this will look like in practice. Thorpe raised many valid points. Education can learn from the medical model for professional preparation and certification. Perhaps faculties and the Ontario College of Teachers, would consider participation in organizations such as ours, a valuable contribution to the growth and accreditation of our new generation of teachers?

To return to our Chapter's endeavours, I am pleased to report that our partnership with the National Spelling Bee has been symbiotic and we will continue to collaborate with their leadership.

Our research series this year will focus on mental health. This topic was selected through feedback from our last research session which was held in February. It definitely complements initiatives by the Ontario government, faculties and school boards who wish to address this sensitive, pervasive issue. The first of three Research series will be on November 27th from 7pm to 9pm at OISE.

CHALKWALK

Each year the committee includes high school students coordinated by Zenobia Omarili and other members of PDK Chapter Executive Committee. This creates a unique setting for young and more mature minds to work together in planning the walk. It is always amazing the amount of ideas and creativity that comes out of these meetings. Our students provide quite an extensive amount of these ideas including the impact of the use of technology. This year the CEO of Spelling Bee of Canada has joined this committee which gives it even more credibility.

One important aspect among others, of these meetings, is that we all gain/improve our leadership skills. For the students, these skills have a great learning impact as they work on the details of the walk. Each student is responsible for one aspect of the planning and follow-up on details with our guidance. We are always amazed at their creative ideas and resilience in continuing, even when there are roadblocks.



Committee Meeting



Door prizes painted by Reneta Racheva



Reneta Racheva & Husband



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.
Chief of Research & Evaluation,
Peel District School Board,
York University Faculty of Education

Inequality More Complex than we Think – Reframing Inequality and its Consequences

In a new research report published by the William T. Grant Foundation, Prudence Carter and Sean Reardon of Stanford University conclude that there is a lack of high-quality research in the equity literature. They argue that the research in this area prevents the establishment of evidence-based conclusions and more importantly the development of effective policies or programs designed to reduce the impact of inequality. They conclude that, we presently have an incomplete understanding of the consequences of inequality from an income, health, education, and political power perspective.

They advocate for the need to broaden our definition of inequality. We as a profession need to think about inequality in an ecological context, and to view inequality as a non-random event (it is embedded in social, institutional, community, relationship and fabric of society).

The authors present four key strategies for broadening the research agenda to address inequality: (1) extend our understanding of the distinction between inequality of opportunity and inequality of outcomes, (2) identify effective strategies for reducing inequality, (3) document how people view inequality as part of their day-to-day life, and (4) expand the study of inequality beyond the lens of poverty and how the actions of advantaged groups perpetuate inequality.

This is a seminal paper that calls for reframing our notion and concept of inequality and addressing inequality in new and fairer ways.

<https://ed.stanford.edu/news/stanford-report-urges-broader-research-agenda-inequality-0>

Can tests answer G.W. Bush's immortal question – Is our students learning?

<http://www.texasobserver.org/walter-stroup-standardized-testing-pearson/#.VBXU6EnyXoh.twitter>

Smart teens rub off on other smart teens

<http://news.byu.edu/archive/14-sep-teammates.aspx>

Teacher turnover worse than other fields? Maybe not

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/tenure.nr0.htm>

What we lose when we stop teaching hand writing

<http://www.writechoice.co.in/writechoice/index.php/2014/06/stand-lose-lot-stop-teaching-handwriting-children/>

Learning a new language makes the brain grow

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121008082953.htm>

Research Series

In response to the Ontario government initiative on Mental Health and Addiction, PDK University of Toronto Chapter, will, in our Research Series, explore the impact and significance.

Our first session of this 3-part series will be held November 27 from 7-9pm at OISE.

Past research series

2006-7
Assessment

2007-08
The Treasure that is Public Education

2008-09
Global Education and the Curriculum: Past, Present and the Future

2009-10
The Promise and Peril of New Technologies in the Classroom

2010 -11
Promoting Academic Achievement through Personal and Social Responsibility

2011-12
Part II of Promoting Academic Achievement through Personal and Social Responsibility

2012-13
Assessment

2013 -14
Learning for the 21st Century

Special Thanks to John Myers who originated the research series in 2006 and has been key to its continuity and success.

RESEARCH SERIES REPORT

OISE Orientation

We often hear that, "Knowledge is Power", yet, the power truly resides in our ability to share this knowledge with others. This is exactly what some of our Kappan members did during orientation week at OISE, in which information about our organization as well as its, "innovative initiatives" were shared with those who have chosen to join us on our journey towards research, leadership and service.

The annual Chalkwalk and Spelling Bee events were highlighted, together with the various awards programs being offered to students and prospective educators. In addition to the information provided at the orientation, many interested students also requested additional information about membership and events, which will be shared with them through ongoing electronic communications.

Yet, many of the students quickly recognized that the true value and benefit of PDK resides with its members who range from various levels of experience and specialties. "It's about the important connections and partnerships that are garnered throughout our personal, academic and professional journeys within our classrooms, community and abroad", said Jessica Pin, 2014 Jackman award winner. (Pics below: Jessica Pin, Carolyn Moras, Marilyn Hahn)



The benefits of these connections are two-fold. For those who are starting this transformative journey into education, the connections create a network system with those who have gone before, who in turn, benefit from keeping these valuable linkages for ongoing growth to what is current and new.

PDK is about belonging to a community that stands for exceptional learning, collaborative engagement and social activism. It is sharing what we know today, towards a better tomorrow, and empowering those who give as well as those who receive. By Jessica Pin 2014 Jackman winner)

TORONTO KAPPANS JOIN OUR NIAGARA COLLEAGUES AND UNIVERSITY WOMENS CLUB FOR AN INFORMATIVE LUNCH AND LEARN

Following a wonderful luncheon at the Queenston Heights Park restaurant on June 17 guests were offered a tour of Willowbank. The attractive brochure informs us that "Willowbank is a unique School of Restoration Arts, combining academic and hands-on training; an internationally recognized Centre for Cultural Landscape theory and practice; and a stunning site that serves as a laboratory for ideas to take shape. Willowbank's home is a beautiful 13-acre estate in Queenston, Ontario. The estate has been inhabited continuously for more than 8,000 years - a layered mosaic of cultures. The property includes a striking 1830's mansion, overlooking the Niagara River gorge, which serves as classrooms and social gatherings for the increasing number of international students and guests."

This day's event, planned by Elizabeth Manker for the Canadian Fed. of University Women - Niagara Falls Club, included Club members and partnership members from the Univ. of Toronto Chapter, PDK International Educators, the City of Niagara Falls Park in the City Committee, and the Niagara Concerts Executive Board.



Source: <http://www.willowbank.ca/content/beta/home/national-historic-site/index/#menu-2>



Elizabeth Manker, Niagara Falls
Kappan Convener

For a full listing of our Chapter's Executive Team, visit our website. www.pdk-ut.ca

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2014 -15 VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS. **NOTE:** OUR RESEARCH SERIES FOR 2014 WILL FOCUS ON "MENTAL HEALTH". EACH SESSION CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS johnmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197 OR TIM RUDAN TIMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM 416-736-2100

ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	Oct. 18, 2014	Put on your calendar and plan to support ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	9:00 AM-12:00 PM
ANGELS...EVERYWHERE!	Thursday, Nov 20	AT CHRIST CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, CANADA. An innovative concert created and produced each year by Kappan Elizabeth Manker.	7-9 pm
Research Series #1 (1 of 3)	Thursday Nov .27	Location- OISE- Room TBA	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Niagara Falls Get Together –enjoy concerts with our Niagara Falls members	Dec 5, Feb 7, May 8	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825; SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Concert
JackmanAward Prospective Educator and Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Awards	Monday, March 2	Award Applications are due on Monday, March 2, 2015	
Annual General Meeting & Initiation Dinner & Outstanding Educator presentation	Apr., 2015	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	5:30-9:30 pm



President
Tim Rudan



Programme Chair
John Myers



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale



Foundation Rep
Zenobia Omerali

BUZZ AROUND THE BEE
Some Of The Kappans With Long Standing Bee History



Nehal Patel



Amanda Rajkumar



Irene Manahan & Bill Velos

We love to hear the humming sound of busy volunteers. Bee season is beginning. If interested in volunteering, please contact Nehal Patel 647-281-2108 or nehal_patel_88@hotmail.com



Lis Horley-Mcleod

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